

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJ: PROPAGANDIST'S REMARKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND US
DOMESTIC POLITICS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY AND COMMENT. ANDREY NIKOLAYEVICH
ZOLOTAREV, VETERAN LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST, BRIEFLY
DISCUSSED US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND AMERICAN POLITICAL
SCENE AS PART OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, PRESENTATION ON
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT CENTRAL ZNANIYE (KNOWLEDGE)
SOCIETY HALL. PUBLIC PROPAGANDISTS IN LENINGRAD HAVE
BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED IN RECENT WEEKS IN THEIR COMMENTS
ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, PERHAPS REFLECTING A "HOLD"
PENDING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND SUBSEQUENT
DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF ZOLOTAREV'S REMARKS ON US-
SOVIET RELATIONS AND US POLITICS.

3. HENRY KISSINGER WILL VISIT THE SOVIET UNION AGAIN IN
FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. ONE CAN
NOW EXPECT BREZHNEV WILL PROBABLY VISIT THE UNITED
STATES IN MAY OF JUNE OF THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, BREZHNEV'S
VISIT WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS IN GENEVA AND ON PRESIDENT
FORD'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION. THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
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OFTEN OPPOSES FORD. IT RECENTLY REFUSED HIS PROPOSED

ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA AND "WE WERE VERY HAPPY AND EVEN SAID 'WHAT FINE FELLOWS, (MOLODTSY) THERE ARE IN CONGRESS." FORD'S CHANCES OF BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT ARE VERY PECULIAR (SVOYEOBRAZNIYE). FOR EXAMPLESBN SOME 85 PER CENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE POLLED IN 1972 SAID THAT THEY EITHER APPROVED OF OR WERE NOT NEGATIVE TOWARD NIXON'S REELECTION. BUT A JANUARY 1976 POLL IN THE US INDICATED THAT ONLY 39 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORT FORD, 40 PER CENT WERE AGAINST, AND THE REMAINDER WERE UNDECIDED. IT IS SAID THAT FORD IS VERY HONEST AND A GOOD FAMILY MAN, BUT MANY SAY HE IS NOT GOOD (SPOSOBNNY) AT GOVERNING THE COUNTRY. FORD HAS RESTRUCTURED HIS CABINET AND CHANGED A NUMBER OF POSITIONS. THERE IS AN ANECDOTE THAT HENRY KISSINGER SAID HE NEVER ANSWERS HIS TELEPHONE ON SUNDAYS BECAUSE THAT IS THE DAY WHEN FORD CALLS PEOPLE UP FIRST TO PRAISE THEM AND THEN FIRE THEM. AND THERE ARE THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO SAY THAT KISSINGER SHOULD RESIGN.

4. ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN THE US HAS INCREASED AFTER THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. SOME IN THE US CONGRESS HAVE SAID THAT THE US SHOULD NOT SELL GRAIN TO THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF ANGOLA, THAT THE US SHOULD NOT OBSERVE ITS SIGNED AGREEMENTS BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION AIDS ANGOLA. HENRY JACKSON AND OTHERS HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS OBSERVING THE TEMPORARY AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS. BOTH FORD AND KISSINGER SAY FIRMLY THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS OBSERVED THE AGREEMENT AND FORD HAS PRAISED HIS GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH BREZHNEV. BUT JACKSON SAID THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE VAGUE ENOUGH TO PERMIT VIOLATIONS. MUCH IS SAID ABOUT THE DANGER OF THE SO-CALLED SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER, BUT SCHLESINGER HIMSELF SAID AFTER HIS RESIGNATION THAT BACKFIRE COULD ONLY REACH SOME AREAS OF THE US, COULD NOT RETURN AFTERWARDS, AND THAT AIRFIELDS IN CUBA WERE NOT SUITED FOR THE BACKFIRE TO LAND AND REFUEL. THE ARMS RACE IS STILL GROWING AS US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS. THE US INCREASED ITS ARMS BUDGET BY 9 BILLION THIS YEAR AND THE NEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, RUMSFELD, HAS SAID THAT US MILITARY EXPENDITURES WILL BE 140-150 BILLION BY THE 1980'S.

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